



## Possible Essay Contest Questions and Instructions

1. What does the idea of “designated Wilderness” mean to you?
2. What feelings or emotions does Wilderness evoke for you when you're having a Wilderness experience?
3. The 2008 National Survey on Recreation and the Environment shows that Americans value Wilderness areas because they:
  - Protect air quality
  - Protect water quality
  - Protect wildlife habitat
  - Will be there for future generations
  - Preserve unique wild plants and animals

Other reasons Americans value Wilderness areas include spiritual interaction with nature, escape from the commotion of daily urban life, recreation, and scientific study. Why do you think all of these benefits are important in today's world?

4. What is the single greatest threat to Wilderness areas today?
5. Why do you feel this is the greatest threat?
6. If you were talking to a friend and he/she asked for an explanation of what Wilderness is, what would you say? (This is the classic elevator speech; you don't have much time, so how would you sum it up?)
7. And when that same person asked you why YOU are involved with Wilderness advocacy/stewardship, what would your answer be? (Make this PERSONAL please...what are you passionate about as it relates to Wilderness?)